

Swimming Pool Safety

1 Never leave children alone in or near a pool. Do not let older siblings watch younger children in the water — they may not be mature enough to take on such an important responsibility.

2 Enroll children in swimming classes. Swimming programs are available for children as young as six months. However, never rely on swimming lessons or flotation devices alone to protect a child.

3 Completely enclose pools with a fence that is at least five feet high and is impossible to climb. Gates should be locked when the pool is not in use and latches should be out of the reach of children.

4 Always keep basic lifesaving equipment nearby. Include a 10- or 12-foot lightweight pole and a ring buoy with rope attached.

5 Learn lifesaving, first aid and CPR. Call your local Red Cross for details on classes.

6 Post phone numbers of the police, hospital and fire department. Teach children to dial 911 in an emergency. Keep a cordless phone near your pool. Never leave children unattended to answer a phone in the house.

7 Never leave floating objects in pools, they often attract children.

8 Allow only one person on the diving board at a time. Prohibit diving in above-ground pools and in the shallow end of built-in pools. Clearly mark water levels by “foot” (3ft., 6ft., etc.).

9 Do not allow running on pool decks. Keep the deck clear of objects that can be tripped over. Lawn chairs, bicycles and other objects should be stored outside the pool area. Store pool chemicals in a dry, secure area out of the reach of children.

10 Children should be taught to obey the lifeguard and any posted “pool rules.” Do not allow children to play underwater “dunking” games.

In case of emergency, call: 911

The California State Legislature has passed legislation and continues to work towards keeping children safe. We want to ensure that there are adequate safety standards for swimming pool enclosures, safety pool covers and exit alarms. The Assembly wants parents to understand these hazards and learn how to prevent drowning.

For more information on specific bills please contact my district office at (925) 372-7990.

**Compliments of
Assemblymember**

**Mark
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